

WHAT MATTERS TO MEN

BEST LIFE

From the Editors of *Men's Health*

STRONG LEAN & WEALTHY

Your Smart New Strategies

Sex Lessons That Save Marriages

BEST FOODS FOR LIVING LONGER

Design Your Dream Job

Your Best Summer Ever!

183 BEST

New Ideas, Tips
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Will Change
Your Life This
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Can You Build a Whole New Life?

Bernie Kerik's
Desperate Quest

JOSH DUHAMEL
Secrets of Spielberg's
Next Action Hero
(Mr. Duhamel wears John Varvatos Star USA.
Details on p. 130)

AUGUST 2007

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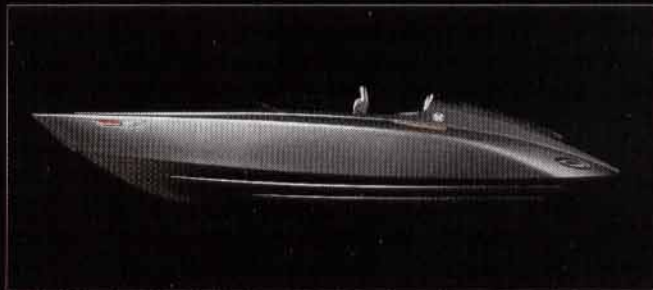
BestLifeOnline.com

Show Boats

The best craft on the water for any condition, whether you're taking the missus on an overnight haul or trolling the bayou for bigmouth

Allen Hall has no interest in oiling teak.

The 41-year-old investment analyst from Philadelphia and his wife, Dana, both love the open water. But they have full-time jobs and three young boys, so when they went boat shopping a few years ago, they were looking for a vessel that would require minimum maintenance, allowing maximum time on the water. They also wanted a boat that Allen could sail with little or no help, allowing Dana to focus on the kids. That's how they ended up with an Etap, an oddly named but easy-to-own sailboat. "It's plug and play," he says. "We used to call it our Volvo, but it's even better than a Volvo." Thanks to technological advancements, ranging from the Etap's simplified steering system and unsinkable hull to the environmentally friendly four-stroke outboard engines aboard today's generation of powerboats, owning a boat now makes more sense than ever before. Furthermore, Russell Research, a market-research firm that recently compared the attitudes of boaters and nonboaters, reports that households with watercraft are happier, healthier, and less stressed-out than their landlubbing brethren. The trick is picking the right boat. So we've done the legwork for you, assembling a flotilla of six perfect rides. Whether it's a cutting-edge offshore fishing rig, a family-size ski boat, or a retro runabout that looks like a classic but is updated with 21st-century technology, at least one of these six watercraft is sure to get your motor running. **MARK ANDERS**



Wired on the Water

The five electronic boating gadgets your father wishes he'd grown up with

1 FISH FINDER

A high-res sonar/GPS system, the Humminbird 997c SI gives you photolike images of what's underneath and to the sides of your boat. Not only will it help you spot obstacles that could ruin your prop, but, more important, you'll see where the strippers are hiding out. \$1,999, humminbird.com



2 MAN-OVERBOARD MONITOR

This beacon system can keep tabs on up to 16 passengers. People don't LifeTag monitors; if the signal on a tag is broken by immersion in water, or if someone moves more than 30 feet from the boat, an alarm sounds. A GPS system then shows the location of the overboard sailor. \$685, raymarine.com



3 MARINE MOBILE PHONE

Sure, Verizon's G'zOne Type-S mobile has a camera and internet access, but its real beauty lies in the fact that it will survive a 30-minute soak in three feet of water. \$250, verizonwireless.com



4 BINOCULARS

Nikon's 16-power water- and fog-proof StabilEyes binoculars are equipped with electronic stabilizers that compensate for shaky movements at sea. \$850, nikonsportoptics.com



1 SPEEDBOAT

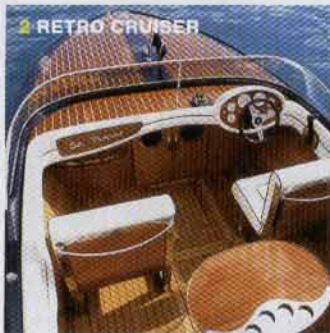
Fearless 28 Custom
Designed by Porsche Design Studio

Length: 28 feet | Horsepower: 525 | Top speed: 80 knots

With its deep-V carbon-and-fiberglass hull and burly 525-horsepower Mercury engine, this five-seater is built for maximum speed. A collaboration between Fearless Yachts and Austria's Porsche Design Studio (known for smartly crafting everything from laptops to kitchen sinks), this speed demon is outfitted with stainless-steel intake vents, classic analog gauges, XM Radio, bucket seats, and a hand-fitted, nonslip teak deck. \$300,000, fearlessyachts.com



2 RETRO CRUISER

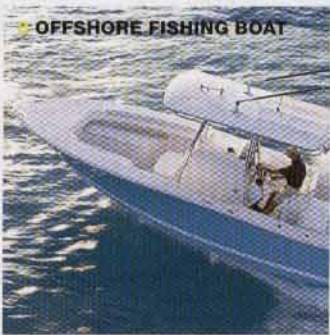


Frauscher 757 St. Tropez

Length: 24.66 feet | Horsepower: 320 | Top speed: 40 knots

Not as fast and sleek as the Fearless 28, the St. Tropez is more like a Bentley of the sea. Nearly everything on this miniyacht is handcrafted, from the polyester hull and stainless-steel fixtures to its mahogany bow and deck. The style is that of a retro European runabout, except upgraded with a modern V-8 Volvo Penta 5.7SX GXi, meaning the boat is half the price of a classic and more reliable. \$181,000, luxemarine.com

3 OFFSHORE FISHING BOAT

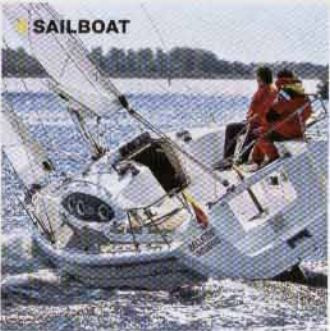


Southport 26CC

Length: 26.5 feet | Horsepower: 500 | Top speed: 50 knots

About four years ago, heavy hitters from boating giants Grady-White, Cigarette, and Hatteras Yachts joined forces to build the ultimate sportfishing boat, the Southport. Its deep-V hull slices through open-ocean swells and gives the craft extra buoyancy, which helps keep your crew dry. The new dual V-6 four-stroke Yamaha engines get the boat up on plane in about three seconds and have a range of 400 miles (twice the fuel economy of the older two-stroke models), which means no fish is out of your reach. \$135,000, southport-boatworks.com

4 SAILBOAT



Etap 28s

Length: 28.2 feet | Mainsail: 277 square feet | Top speed: 7.5 knots

Sure, you could buy a 28-footer for about \$40,000 less, but you'd be missing out on a level of unmatched performance, luxury, and safety in this size category. With a larger-than-usual mainsail, a steep, racy bow, and an uncommonly long waterline, this Belgium-built cruiser is fast. She's also capable of being sailed solo, so your passengers can focus on their cocktails and the sleek Bertoni-designed interior (from the Italian designers of Alfa Romeo fame). Its high-tech double-hull structure means you can take a massive hole to the bow and still motor home; the Etap is virtually unsinkable. \$115,000 to \$130,000, etapmarine.com

5 FLATS BOAT

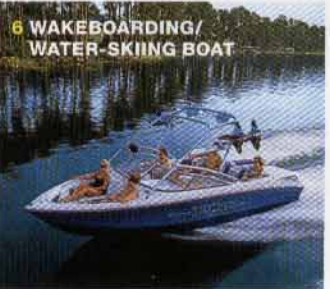


Maverick Mirage 17 HPX-V

Length: 16.75 feet | Horsepower: 90 | Top speed: 40 knots

This sleek machine was designed for fishing in shallows of six feet or less and can run in as little as eight inches of water, making it popular with top saltwater fishing guides in the Florida Keys and fishermen stalking redfish in the shallows of North Carolina, Texas, and the Gulf Coast. It's easy to pole around, and most important, it's quiet on the water, so you won't risk scaring off your daily limit. Unlike most flats boats with ultraflat bottoms, the Mirage's Kevlar hull has just enough V to cut through the chop without pounding your kidneys. \$38,057 with a four-stroke 90-horsepower engine, maverickboats.com

6 WAKEBOARDING/
WATER-SKIING BOAT



Correct Craft Crossover Nautique 236

Length: 23.125 feet | Horsepower: 375 | Top speed: 40 knots

With seating for 14, this boat is roomy enough to seat even your kids' second-best friends...and their parents. Don't worry about all the deadweight slowing you down though, because this machine is powered with Correct Craft's largest engine, the six-liter PCM ZR6. This boat is powerful and produces a first-class wake, which has made it a favorite of professional wakeboarders and water-skiers. Thanks to an innovative wake-shaping plate on the stern, you can fine-tune the wake for any kind of water sport. \$82,135 including many options, correctcraft.com

5 PORTABLE GPS

Preloaded with coastal charts of the United States, the Garmin GPSMAP 478 safely guides you out to sea and back again. It's equipped with real-time XM satellite weather reports. Once back at the dock, move it to your car for turn-by-turn driving directions. \$999, garmin.com



(TOP) COURTESY OF LUXE MARINE; (MIDDLE) COURTESY OF FEARLESS YACHTS; (BOTTOM) COURTESY OF CORRECT CRAFT, INC.